



CORINTHIANS

A Passion for God's People

Do you ever come away from
a conversation wishing that
you had said things
differently?



Nobody likes to be
misunderstood...
especially not when it's
used against you and thrown
back in your face.

*That's exactly what happened to
Paul in his communication with
the church in Corinth.*

*Paul wanted to be helpful...
but his enemies used it against him.*

1 Corinthians 16:5-9

⁵ After I go through Macedonia, I will come to you—for I will be going through Macedonia. Perhaps I will stay with you for a while, or even spend the winter, so that you can help me on my journey, wherever I go. For I do not want to see you now and make only a passing visit; I hope to spend some time with you, if the Lord permits. But I will stay on at Ephesus until Pentecost, because a great door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many who oppose me.

“Perhaps”

“I hope”

“if the Lord permits”



MACEDONIA

Rome

Byzantium

BITHYNIA

Thessalonica

Philippi

MYSIA

TURKEY

Troas

ACHAIA

GALATIA

ASIA

Antioch

Corinth

Lystra

Ephesus

Tarsus

Paul

SYRIA

CYPRUS

Jerusalem



MACEDONIA

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MYSIA

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ACHAIA

Troas

The
"Painful
Visit"

ASIA

GALATIA

Antioch

Corinth

Lystra

Ephesus

Tarsus

SYRIA

CYPRUS

Jerusalem

Paul

But then everything changed...

Why is this such a big deal?

It's because Paul's enemies were trying to accuse him of being fickle, insincere, and a liar.

2 Corinthians 1:12–2:4

¹² Now this is our boast: Our conscience testifies that we have conducted ourselves in the world, and especially in our relations with you, with integrity and godly sincerity. We have done so, relying not on worldly wisdom but on God's grace. For we do not write you anything you cannot read or understand. And I hope that, as you have understood us in part, you will come to understand fully that you can boast of us just as we will boast of you in the day of the Lord Jesus.

2 Corinthians 1:12–2:4

¹⁵ Because I was confident of this, I wanted to visit you first so that you might benefit twice. I wanted to visit you on my way to Macedonia and to come back to you from Macedonia, and then to have you send me on my way to Judea. Was I fickle when I intended to do this? Or do I make my plans in a worldly manner so that in the same breath I say both “Yes, yes” and “No, no”?

2 Corinthians 1:12–2:4

¹⁸ But as surely as God is faithful, our message to you is not “Yes” and “No.” For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us—by me and Silas and Timothy—was not “Yes” and “No,” but in Him it has always been “Yes.” For no matter how many promises God has made, they are “Yes” in Christ. And so through Him the “Amen” is spoken by us to the glory of God.

2 Corinthians 1:12–2:4

²¹ Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. I call God as my witness—and I stake my life on it—that it was in order to spare you that I did not return to Corinth. Not that we lord it over your faith, but we work with you for your joy, because it is by faith you stand firm.

2 Corinthians 1:12–2:4

¹ So I made up my mind that I would not make another painful visit to you. For if I grieve you, who is left to make me glad but you whom I have grieved? I wrote as I did, so that when I came I would not be distressed by those who should have made me rejoice. I had confidence in all of you, that you would all share my joy. For I wrote you out of great distress and anguish of heart and with many tears, not to grieve you but to let you know the depth of my love for you.

Here's what's really going on...

Satan is trying to do whatever he can to distract Paul & the church from their primary purpose, which is shining the light of Jesus into the darkness.

What is our primary purpose?

- Go into all the world & make disciples.
- Our purpose is for every member of Christ's church to live the gospel in whatever place God calls us.
- We are commanded to love God first, and then love others as we love ourselves.

What is Satan's primary purpose?

- To distract us in any way he possibly can.

2 Corinthians 2:9-11

⁹Another reason I wrote you was to see if you would stand the test and be obedient in everything. Anyone you forgive, I also forgive. And what I have forgiven—if there was anything to forgive—I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake, in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.

Paul turns this entire conversation
into a declaration of the Gospel
...and our part in sharing the Gospel.

1. The Gospel is God saying “Yes” to us through the good news of Jesus.

2 Corinthians 1:19-20

“For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us—by me and Silas and Timothy—was not “Yes” and “No,” but in Him it has always been “Yes.” For no matter how many promises God has made, they are “Yes” in Christ.”

- Does God love you? Yes.
- Are your sins forgiven? Yes.
- Will God answer your prayers? Yes.
- Is there hope for your life? Yes.
- Does your life have purpose? Yes.
- Can you find joy? Yes.

**No matter how many promises God
has made, they are “yes” in Christ.**

2. God is always using us to spread the aroma of Christ wherever we go.

2 Corinthians 2:12-13

“Now when I went to Troas to preach the gospel of Christ and found that the Lord had opened a door for me, I still had no peace of mind, because I did not find my brother Titus there. So I said goodbye to them and went on to Macedonia.”



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Jerusalem

2 Corinthians 2:14-17

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But thanks be to God, who always leads us as captives in Christ's triumphal procession and uses us to spread the aroma of the knowledge of Him everywhere. For we are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. To the one we are an aroma that brings death; to the other, an aroma that brings life. And who is equal to such a task? Unlike so many, we do not peddle the word of God for profit. On the contrary, in Christ we speak before God with sincerity, as those sent from God.

Here's the point—

Paul is saying that it didn't matter
if he simply passed through Troas...

God was using him to spread
the Gospel.

God is always using us to spread
the good news of Christ
everywhere we go.
All the time.

**Our lives create access for lost
people to know who Jesus is,
and how much He loves them.**

It's not so much about being the
church "in here."

It's about being the church
"out there."

God is using our lives to make
Jesus known.

2 Corinthians 2:14-15 The Message

In the Messiah, in Christ, God leads us from place to place in one perpetual victory parade. Through us, He brings knowledge of Christ. Everywhere we go, people breathe in the exquisite fragrance. Because of Christ, we give off a sweet scent rising to God

I want to give us a challenge
that I believe will make a
significant impact.

Over the next 3 months...

2,000 TABLES



1. meal



2. stories



3. prayer

Relationally Connected by Christ

Text pictures to
717-401-7777

World Communion Sunday

